

virus

a liquid black cloud spreads its fingers
across the family sky
 like ink from a squid
 filling an aquarium tank
blotting out the sun
turning everyone and everything
 the color of a funeral
 shadow blue.

a virus infects the family tree
 twisting the future
 obscuring the past
spreading from generation to generation
feeding on the children
turning the adults into monsters
 or rendering them
 mute.

a parasite enters the family bloodstream
 burrowing into hearts and minds
 anchoring in tender bodies
protecting and propagating itself with a trance
 forget
 forget
 forget.

I will not forget
and I will not pass these nightmares on to anyone else.

I'll pull those black fingers down out of my sky
I'll dig this virus out of my roots
I'll burn this parasite out of my blood.

I'll hunt down every last trace of this psychic infection
this evil rot that was injected into me when I was a child
 and I'll haul it out into the daylight
 where it can't survive.

I'll scream it out
I'll vomit it out
I'll drag it out of me
 any way I can
 tooth and claw
 root and branch
 blood and bone
until I've purged it from my life
and cleansed myself completely.

I reject the conspiracy of amnesia and silence
that allows this systemic scourge
to thrive unchallenged
in secret
in dark and helpless places
I reject the family commandments
thou shalt not remember
thou shalt not feel
thou shalt not tell
I will remember
I will feel
I will tell
I'll take back my life from this shadow blue plague
and if that makes me an outcast
a traitor in the eyes of the family
then so be it.

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